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ABSTRACT

This report represents Iowa's proposed state plan for the education of homeless children and youth, in accordance with Title VII, Subtitle B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The Iowa report is divided into eight sections. Section 1 describes the legal authority and requirements attendant on the McKinney Act. Section 2 describes the history of the Iowa Education Department's actions in compliance with McKinney Act requirements. Section 3 defines the following categories of homelessness in Iowa: (1) "on the street"; (2) "quasi-homeless"; (3) "shelters"; (4) "doubling-up"; and (5) "near-homeless." Section 4 presents a statistical breakdown of the homeless population in Iowa by category of homelessness and school level. Section 5 presents statements of educational needs and recommended solutions for eight categories of homeless education problems. Section 6 offers supporting activities and proposed completion dates for 22 objectives for homeless education in Iowa. A prioritization table including objectives, rank order, and timeliness is appended to this section. Section 7 presents the operational structure for the implementation of Iowa's state plan, including the following categories: (1) policy assurances; (2) general provisions; (3) school district provisions; and (4) state provisions. Section 8 lists the members of the Advisory Committee to the Office for Education of Homeless Children and Youth and Adults. (AF)

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ED308262

PROPOSED STATE PLAN

FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

AND YOUTH IN IOWA

March, 1989

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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Legal Authority and Requirements

In July, 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 100-77 (The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act) legally putting into effect comprehensive federal emergency and long-term assistance for homeless persons. Title VII, Subtitle B of the law (Education of Homeless Children and Youth) establishes a program of grants (determined by Federal Formula) to state education agencies for the planning and provisions of education services for the homeless. Title VII, Subtitle B establishes that states make provisions to assure that homeless children and youth have access to a free, appropriate public education that is provided to children of the residents of the state and is consistent with state school attendance laws. It also establishes that states review and undertake steps to revise compulsory school attendance laws (where residency is a requirement) to assure that homeless children and youth are afforded a free and appropriate public education.

States that accept grants under P.L. 100-77, Title VII, Subtitle B are required to:

A) Carry out the provisions identified above

B) Establish an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth to:

   1) gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the state including the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of, homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools and the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children,

   2) develop and carry out a State plan and,

   3) prepare and submit to the Secretary (U.S.O.E.) an interim report not later than December 31, 1987, and a final report not later than December 31, 1988, on the data gathered.

C) Prepare and carry out a State Plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or youth containing:

   1) authorizations to make determinations required under Title VII, Subtitle B of P.L. 100-77,

   2) procedures for the resolution of disputes regarding education placement of homeless children and youth, and

3) Assure that local education agencies within the state will to the extent practical, comply with the following requirements:

a) The LEA of each homeless child or youth shall either continue the child's or youth's education in the school district of origin for the remainder of the school year or enroll the child or youth in the school district where the child or youth is actually living: whichever is in the child's or youth's best interest.

b) The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child is living with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

c) Each homeless child shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected including educational services for which the child meets the eligibility criteria such as compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged, and educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency, programs in vocational education, programs for the gifted and talented and school meals programs.

d) The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that the records are available in a timely fashion when a child or youth enters a new school district and in a manner consistent with Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

History

The Department of Education applied for Federal assistance under P.L. 100-77, Title VII, Subtitle B in 1988. The application was submitted under David Bechtel, Acting Director for the proposed funding of $47,853. Ms. Sue Schroeder was hired as Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth within the Bureau of Compensatory and Equity Education (now entitled the Bureau of Federal School Improvement) under the supervision of Dr. Oliver Himley, Chief. Sue Schroeder left the Department of Education in September, 1988 and was replaced by Dr. Raymond Morley in February, 1989.

During 1988 to the present (3/10/89) the following was accomplished:

a) An advisory committee was established representing education, youth shelters, coalitions for the homeless, legal services, runaway youth centers and human resources. (March 1988)

b) Public hearings were held in five regions of the state (Davenport, Des Moines, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, and Waterloo) to document the Educational Needs and Problems of Homeless Children and Youth in Iowa. (May 1988)

c) The dissemination of flyers was completed to encourage homeless children to enter school. Sent to shelters, food kitchens, police department, etc. via school districts in Iowa. (August, 1988)

d) A review was completed on residence requirements, resolution for disputes, student records and LEA assurances for the education of homeless in Iowa. (September, 1988)

e) A research project was completed defining and documenting the extent of homelessness in Iowa (contract between Drake University and the Department of Education including the coordination with Adult Literacy via Don Wederquist, DE.) (September, 1988)

f) A status report was completed and sent to the Secretary of Education (U.S.O.E.) (December, 1988).

g) A State Plan for Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Iowa was completed. (March, 1989)

Definition

When the time came to enumerate the homeless in Iowa it was necessary to establish categories or an operational definition. Therefore, names for different categories of the homeless were developed. Since some groups demand the acceptance of the more narrow or literal definition of who should be counted as being homeless and others demand the more liberal definition involving dependency, a continuum was constructed ranging from the most narrow definition to the most broadly-defined definition of homeless. Key informants from many social service groups, both public and private were interviewed to refine these categories. In the final analysis five categories were devised, four being levels of the homeless and the fifth a grouping of people who are or could become homeless in a relatively short period of time. These five categories are:

1. "ON THE STREET" This has reference to those persons who are literally living on the streets, unwilling or unable to experience even the most nominal housing. These people by any definition would be categorized as homeless.

2. "QUASI-HOMELESS" This has reference to those individuals who are living in cars, tents, abandoned buildings, transients, etc.

3. "SHELTERS" This has reference to those individuals who are living in facilities capable of housing individuals or families who are in need of a temporary place to reside. Living in one of these facilities is usually temporary, but longer-term residence may be permitted.

4. "DOUBLING-UP" This has reference to those individuals who, if not living with a family member or friend, would be essentially without a home or shelter.

5. "NEAR-HOMELESS" This has reference to those individuals who, without entitlements (e.g., FEMA, fuel assistance and/or rent assistance by any agency, public or private), would be homeless. This might include individuals living in substandard housing, migrant workers not falling into one of the other categories, or any person not adequately covered in another category. These are not actually homeless individuals, but are potentially homeless.

From these categories of homelessness or near-homelessness one has the potential of selecting any or all of the groups, as needed or consistent with local or individual definitions of homelessness. If one accepts or has use for the category "on the street" as the only acceptable definition of homeless, that singular group is available. If, on the other hand, persons believe that shelter residence and on-the street are the proper categories, these two may be added and the other categories omitted. All one has to do is accept and reject categories, consistent with needs or viewpoints, and use those data.

Extent of the Problem

The following table enumerates the first four levels of homelessness in Iowa.

1.	Living on the Street	413
2.	Quasi-Homeless	1,998
3.	Living in Shelters	1,876
4.	Doubling-Up	9,849
	Total	14,136

It should be noted that the data represents the total number of Iowans who were homeless during the six-week period (early June through mid-July of 1988). The quality of recordkeeping of agencies working with the homeless varies considerably throughout the state. It should also be noted that the shelter category does not necessarily include all children living in runaway centers or shelters nor all spouses residing in a domestic violence shelter because sometimes local authorities were unaware or unwilling to provide those figures and the design of research study did not routinely include contacts with domestic violence shelters.

A number of Iowans (37,409) defined as "Near Homeless" was created because it has significant meaning to people working in social services. These people are on the edge of homelessness and should their limited entitlements not be continued (rent, vouchers, fuel assistance, etc.) for a short period of time they would find themselves homeless.

The following table enumerates the number of homeless children and children of homeless families in Iowa.

Children Considered Homeless in Iowa
By Designated Categories - Summer 1988

	Pre Sch	Elem	Mid Sch	H.S.	Total
Street	21	15	16	65	117
Quasi-homeless	117	91	43	61	312
Sheltered	176	120	19	32	347
Doubled-up	1402	1129	409	413	3353
Total	1716	1355	487	571	4129

Children obviously comprise a significant proportion of those persons in Iowa who are categorized as being homeless, and the numbers in the "Pre-School" category indicate that the problem of homelessness is greater at the younger ages. Public hearings indicated that the older the homeless child becomes, the greater the probability that some housing service is available.

Lack of skills and education are two of the most often mentioned reasons for homelessness in Iowa. As well, education is considered one of six most often mentioned needs for expansion of existing services.

The following table identifies and represents ten of Iowa's counties with the highest concentrations of homeless children and represent areas that deserve specific attention with regard to education services.

Total Children Categorized as Homeless
in Ten of Iowa's Highest Concentrated Counties

County	Pre Sch	Elem	Mid Sch	H.S.	Total
Delaware	217	216	26	25	484
Johnson	110	115	121	130	476
Dubuque	210	172	3	20	405
Polk	47	47	60	125	279
Fremont	81	183	0	0	264
Mills	75	76	0	0	151
Mitchell	28	25	33	17	103
Pottawattamie	93	2	0	0	95
Davis	72	0	0	18	90
Cerro Gordo	28	28	14	19	89

Homelessness is an issue in Iowa as illustrated in the data collected in the statewide study conducted in 1988 (A Research Project Pertaining to the Problem of Homeless Children and Children of Homeless Families in Iowa). The problem is of a magnitude and scope that needs to be addressed so solutions to the problem can be created.

Statements on Educational Needs

During May, 1988 information about the educational needs and problems of homeless school age children and youth was gathered via educational hearings in Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Sioux City and Waterloo. A statewide advisory committee to the Office for Education of Homeless Children and Youth (now within the Bureau of Federal School Improvement, Department of Education) reviewed the testimony and identified educational problems and possible solutions. The following chart reflects the results.

Educational Problems and Suggested Solutions

NEEDS	RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS
Policy and procedure barriers in the areas of records transfer, immunization, transportation, fees and supplies, guardianship, enrollment requirements at the high school level, and student rights.	Study the specific problems and recommend changes in related policies and procedures. Develop an accessible state repository for immunization records and records of students who transfer from district to district. Develop an advocate/ombudsperson in area education agencies or within the Department of Education.
Labeling homeless students and considering them as a segregated group that have to be served apart from all children.	Develop and maintain an atmosphere that all children in school have a right to feelings and dignity as individuals. Discourage negative labeling.
Disciplinary practices that exclude a homeless student from school.	Provide experiences that help young people to function "in the system". Make alternative programs available as an option to out of school suspensions.
Failure to meet the emotional needs of the homeless-poor self esteem and trauma of transient lifestyle.	Make social workers available to all students. Provide more counselors in all schools at all levels. Remove administrative tasks from counseling assignments.

NEEDS	RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS
Corporal punishment	The Department of Education should propose legislation to outlaw corporal punishment in Iowa schools. (Is being considered in this legislative session - 1989)
School personnel do not understand or acknowledge poverty and homelessness in their student population and the best interest of the child is not always considered in decisions.	Require in service on issues dealing with the homeless for school administrators. Assist all school staff to welcome and include all students.
Not all students fit the traditional school day, some are on the streets, teenagers under 15 cannot prepare for G.E.D. Basic survival needs overcome the need and motivation for education.	Make "alternative" programs and schools available as an option for all students, not just those who fail at everything else first. Develop a statewide curriculum for homeless students that could be delivered through Area Education Agencies as individualized instruction. Change school funding to be more responsive to enrollment fluctuations.
Transportation of homeless students to appropriate schools. Lack of cooperation among state agencies that serve homeless clients.	Review the rights of parents and students to transportation for schooling purpose. Also review current practices in providing transportation to seek positive alternatives. Develop a statewide effort to assist schools to initiate and develop relationships with advocates, shelters and service providers to homeless persons.

The Department of Education was urged via the public hearings on educational needs and by the advisory committee to take a position in support of increasing the amount and availability of low income/descent housing.

Objectives and Timelines

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) proposes the following objectives and timelines for continuation of work under P.L. 100-77, Title VII, Subtitle B - Education For Homeless Children and Youth. The objectives are considered necessary and well supported through needs assessments conducted in 1988. The timelines and agenda are considered flexible and may need to be changed to accommodate unforseen obstacles. It is our intent to meet all assurances required Under P.L. 100-77, Title VII, Subtitle B, and to address policies and procedures to best benefit homeless children and youth.

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
1. Continue to provide an Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Iowa	1.1 Review state initiatives and study the possibility of maintaining such a position in combination with other responsibilities via state funds. This would allow the continuation of efforts in this area despite federal incentives. It would also allow the expenditure of federal funds in areas yet not possible, i.e. model programs, comprehensive staff development, etc.	July 1, 1990
2. Establish public hearings for review of the state plan and for additional input to improve education for homeless children and youth.	2.1 Identify 5 geographical sites in the state to review the state plan.	July, 1989
	2.2 Encourage reviews via Area Education Agency contact persons assigned responsibilities for at-risk populations and area college persons working with special needs populations including those involved with the adult programs under P.L. 100-77.	
	2.3 Seek input from other states on initiatives that can be adopted in Iowa.	
	2.4 Revise/update/improve plan.	July, 1989

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
3. Review and make recommendations for revisions of residency requirements which may be a part of Iowa law that may prohibit educational access to homeless children and youth.	3.1 Identify Iowa laws on residency as they effect students: attending a different school within a district attending a school in a neighboring district transfering from private providers going outside the state for services transferring from outside states 3.2 Recommend needed changes.	June, 1989
4. Gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth as requested by the U.S. Dept. of Ed. and advised via advisory committee, Governor's task force, State Board of Education, service agencies and potential contractual agency participants. Continue to link efforts with adult initiatives to conduct a survey to satisfy the needs for planning for children, youth, and adults. Gather data for identifying preschool homeless children to assist in promoting preschool initiatives for at-risk students.	4.1 Develop a process to systematically and accurately collect data. 4.1.a Review and revise existing system and/or 4.1.b Explore a strategy to involve schools in reporting homeless children, services provided and results.	December 30, 1989

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
5. Coordinate efforts with the existing study of area education agencies to explore the potential of establishing a statewide network of education consultants who could address the education needs of the homeless children and youth in each geographical area of the state.	5.1 Establish how the issue of homelessness can be addressed in the "Structure of Services Study" 5.2 Participate in work groups as necessary and provided for in the structure of services study. 5.3 Establish recommendations and networking possibilities.	November, 1989
6. Establish a monitoring system of local education agencies for assuring that local schools are providing for the education of homeless children.	6.1 Review existing recommendations to involve Chapter 1 consultants and regional consultants in monitoring. 6.2 Finalize specific criteria and procedures that can be utilized for monitoring.	August, 1989
7. Incorporate the policy and procedures problems of transportation, fees and supplies, enrollment requirements, and student rights into a policy study being conducted under a grant from the Education Commission of the States (ECS).	7.1 Identify policies and procedures problems through ECS Grant task force. 7.2 Identify solutions to problems and incorporate into planning format to be submitted to all local education agencies for review of local policies and practices.	August, 1989

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
8. Coordinate efforts with existing counseling improvement projects within the state to improve counseling services for the homeless.	8.1 Establish recommendations for local schools to address counseling services for the homeless via incorporating objectives into counseling programs designed for all students - i.e. recommendations on guidance and at-risk student standards. 8.2 Participate in staff development projects for counselors to incorporate objectives for improving services for the homeless.	Continuing Activity
9. Review corporal punishment as it exists in Iowa law and recommended Board Policies.	9.1 Identify corporal punishment references in Iowa Code and in recommended policies as provided through the Iowa School Board's Association. 9.2 Identify recommendations for possible legislative action or policy change if needed after this legislative session.	October, 1989
10. Coordinate efforts with area education agencies, merged area schools, service agencies, and related state agencies to develop and implement staff development programs for local education agency personnel.	10.1 Plan a minimum of five staff development activities that will effect all areas of the state and specifically target the ten counties experiencing the greatest problems of homelessness. 10.2 Coordinate efforts with adult providers to address the needs of 16 to 21 year old homeless youth. 10.3 Target preschool problems for no less than one staff development activity.	Continuing Activity

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
	10.4 Prepare written material to sensitize all school staff to the problems of the homeless including but not limited to domestic violence. 10.5 Identify local agencies working with the homeless.	
11. Disseminate information to districts regarding their responsibility to homeless children and youth.	11.1 Develop statements for review by the Iowa Department of Education. 11.2 Establish a publication and dissemination plan.	September, 1989
12. Create incentive awards and establish constructs with agencies to establish model practices in the transfer of student records and cooperative relationships between schools and support service agencies.	12.1 Review present budget for identifying potential dollars for incentive awards. 12.2 Develop and publish guidelines for utilization of funds. 12.3 Establish contracts with agencies for implementation. 12.4 Implement and monitor projects. 12.5 Publish results and disseminate via workshops and mailings to key contacts.	October - November, 1989

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
13. Incorporate planning for the homeless into local school plans for alternative schools and programs via increased allowable growth (Chapter 442.54-57, Iowa Code)	13.1 Incorporate ideas into existing guidelines for the development of alternative schools and programs. 13.2 Dissemination guidelines to all public schools, area education agencies and area colleges. 13.3 Consult with agencies to incorporate special activities to improve services for homeless populations.	November, 1989 Continuous Activity
14. Investigate the development of a statewide curriculum to address the basic survival needs of homeless children and youth.	14.1 Establish and implement a means to gather input from area education agencies and others on the need for a statewide curriculum. 14.2 Proceed with plans as determined from the information gathering.	December, 1989
15. Develop a status report on the state plan.	15.1 Prepare and submit an annual report to the secretary (U.S.O.E.)	December, 1989
16. Establish contacts with other states to identify model activities and use the ideas gained to improve Iowa's state planning.	16.1 Establish contact with a minimum of 20 states via phone and writing. 16.2 Establish ideas for consideration by the advisory committee. 16.3 Incorporate ideas into Iowa's state plan for 1990-91.	January, 1990

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
17. Review the rights of students to transportation for schooling purposes and make recommendations for improvement of transportation.	17.1 Review Iowa law regarding transportation. 17.2 Conduct visitations to school sites to study procedures. 17.3 Document needs.	March, 1990
18. Develop model procedures for serving the homeless regarding transportation, transfer of school records, inservice training of staff, interagency collaboration, resolution of disputes, and educational program implementation.	18.1 Review of state law 18.2 Visit local education programs 18.3 Receive input from advisory committee and legal assistance from within the Iowa Department of Education. 18.4 Draft model procedures for dissemination via a major publication on serving the homeless.	April, 1990
19. Link efforts with the Governor's Task Force to study and improve the quality of life for homeless children, youth, and adults.	19.1 Contact the chairperson of the Governor's Task Force for continued involvement and sharing of information.	Continuing Activity
20. Continue the utilization of an advisory committee to provide an opportunity for shelter providers, school personnel, homeless persons, and community service agencies to participate in the Iowa Department of Education's program planning to benefit homeless children, youth and adults.	20.1 Contact potential participants to serve in an advisory capacity. 20.2 Utilize advisory members to: develop a state plan and implement and evaluate activities in the plan.	Continuing Activity

Objectives	Supporting Activities	Proposed Completion Dates
21. Maintain contact with the United States Department of Education to assure compliance with Federal requirements, take advantage of potential discretionary funds and receive information to improve state planning.	21.1 Maintain phone and written communication with U.S.O.E. 21.2 Attend leadership conferences sponsored by U.S.O.E. 21.3 Encourage critiques of Iowa's State Plan going beyond normal reviews conducted by U.S.O.E. 21.4 Assist and encourage Iowa service agencies to apply for discretionary funds made available by the U.S.O.E.	Continuing Activity
22. Explore opportunities to improve service for the homeless via involvement of universities and colleges to address the issue, policy seminars, public awareness through Very Special Arts and Iowa's Arts Council, state legislation to improve services and ties with Community Youth Service initiatives to incorporate objectives for the homeless.	22.1 Develop specific planning seminars with colleges and universities. 22.2 Coordinate planning with Iowa's Art Council to initiate projects dealing with the homeless. 22.3 Develop recommendations for legislative action. 22.4 Incorporate the issues of homelessness into initiatives to improve the Quality of Life i.e. "Iowa Youth 2000" and "Youth Community Service". 22.5 Explore the potential of establishing a common center to search, house, and disseminate education material and coordinate staff development.	Continuing Activity

Prioritization Table for Objectives

No.	Objective	Rank Order Federal Mandates First	Timeline
2	Public Hearings on State Plan	1	May, 1989 — July, 1989
1	Office for Coordinator	2	Oct., 1989 — Sept., 1990
4	Gather Data on Number of Homeless	3	May, 1989 — Nov., 1989
3	Review and Revise Residency Requirements	4	June, 1989 — July, 1989
6	Monitoring System for Compliance	5	Aug., 1989 — Sept. 1989
11	Dissemination of Information on Dist. Resp.	6	Sept., 1989 — Nov., 1989
15	Status Report	7	December, 1989
20	Maintain Advisory Committee	8	Oct., 1989 — Sept., 1990
21	Maintain Contact Federal Office	9	Oct., 1989 — Sept., 1990
7	Policy and Procedures Review in ECS	10	May, 1989 — July, 1989
19	Link with Governor's Task Force	11	May, 1989 — Sept., 1990
22	Explore Improvement of Services	12	May, 1989 — Sept., 1990
18	Model Procedures	13	Oct., 1989 — Nov., 1990
10	Coordinate with AEAs	14	May, 1989 — Sept., 1990
5	Establish Statewide Network	15	Nov., 1989 — April, 1990
17	Review Student Rights	16	March, 1990 — May, 1990
9	Review Corporal Punishment	17	Oct., 1989 — Nov., 1989
12	Create Incentive Awards	18	Sept., 1989 — Oct., 1989
13	Incorporate Planning for Homeless into Alternative Schools	19	Nov., 1989 — Dec., 1989
8	Coordinate with Counseling Improvements	20	Oct., 1989 — Sept., 1990
14	Investigate Statewide Curr.	21	Dec., 1989 — Feb., 1990
16	Establish Other State Contacts	22	Oct., 1989 — Sept., 1990

Operational Structure for Implementation of Iowa's State Plan

I. Policy Assurances

A. The Iowa Department of Education assures that each homeless child and youth has access to a free, appropriate public education which is provided to the children of a resident of Iowa and is consistent with Iowa school attendance laws.

II. General Provisions

A. This plan authorizes the following parties to make determinations about placement and appropriate educational services required in Section III and IV: the Iowa Department of Education, local school district, parent or guardian of the homeless child, the homeless youth, or applicable social worker.

B. The provisions in Sections III and IV give, to the degree possible in each case, deference to the wishes of parents or guardians of homeless children and youth and to the wishes of homeless youth.

III. School District Provisions

A. The school district where a homeless child or youth is located shall either:

1. continue the child's or youth's education in the school district of origin for the remainder of the school year; or

2. enroll the child or youth in the school district where the child or youth is actually living, whichever is in the best interest of the child or youth and regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parents.

B. The school district where a homeless child or youth is attending school shall provide services comparable to services offered to other students in the school, including but not limited to:

- compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged,
- educational programs for the handicapped,
- educational programs for students with limited English proficiency,
- programs in vocational education,
- programs for the gifted and talented,

and school meals programs.

C. School districts shall maintain the records of a homeless child or youth so that they are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school district. The rights and privacy of homeless parents and students shall be protected.

IV. State Provisions

A. Resolutions of disputes regarding district placement and provision of appropriate educational services shall be made at the lowest possible level. When necessary, the Department of Education will become involved:

1. Informally, when the Homeless Coordinator attempts to bring parties together in the best interest of the child or youth;

2. Formally, when a local board placement decision is appealed to the State Board of Education under Chapter 290, Iowa Code and Chapter 281.6 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Decisions made under this section will, to the extent possible, give preference to the wishes of parents or guardians of homeless children and youth, and to the wishes of homeless youth.

B. The extent to which school district policies, procedures, practices meet the requirements of this plan will be determined by input to the Homeless Coordinator from Chapter 1 and regional consultants following regular visits to schools they serve. Input will also be supplemented by input from the coordinator of Methods of Administration - Iowa's review process for compliance with Federal and State civil rights legislation.

Training, information and assurance procedures will be provided to Chapter 1 and regional consultants by the Homeless Coordinator.

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